

MESSAGE TO SOLDIERS LEAVING FOR FRANCE  
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under proper leadership, they are going to  
give a splendid  
account of themselves,"

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Replying on June 22, 1917, Roosevelt wrote:

"I was immensely pleased with your note. I  
cannot help  
grinning over the way in which the attempt to  
exile you has  
turned out. You have had a really wonderful  
reception in  
the South, and have made a wonderful  
impression there.  
To my great amusement a British General,  
who is rather  
taking the Administration view, told me that  
the President  
had informed him that he had purposely  
sent you to the  
South, because of the great work he knew you  
would be  
doing down there! I asked him if that was the  
reason the  
President had tried to get you to go to the  
Hawaiian Isl-  
ands. He expressed doubt whether our  
volunteers would  
have done well, and to my immense  
amusement, gave as a  
justification of the doubt the fact that he did  
not think the  
Australians and Canadians were as good as  
the British  
tommies, and expressed Disapproval of their  
discipline.

"I am absolutely certain that if you were  
given a free  
hand, not merely in the South, but in the  
country at large,  
you would have instead of 100,000, 500,000  
men ready for  
training in Europe by November. But, as you  
say, there  
never has been such effort as now to keep  
concentration and  
control in Washington, and the wooden-  
headed way in  
which they do this makes the situation one  
fraught with  
ugly possibilities of delay and disaster.

"I feel exactly as you do—I am trying to do  
the best that

can be done. I have not criticized the President since April 2nd, but neither do I lie about him, I intend to tell the truth and point out the criminal folly of our having failed to prepare, and to speak plainly of the dangers ahead."

Roosevelt's strong disapproval of the use of violence and rioting in labor strikes found expression in a somewhat startling but eminently characteristic manner in the summer of 1917. The Eussian Republic had been declared and a commission from its government to the United States,